

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, Tuesday, April 21, 2015

For more information, contact Gordon Weixel, 328-5357

NDPRD kicks off 50th Anniversary celebration with May 1 event

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2015 with 13 events. It all begins with a Kick-Off event, open to the public at the Heritage Center Pembina River Plaza in Bismarck on May 1, starting at 1 p.m.

Lieutenant Governor Drew Wrigley is speaking at the Kick-Off along with North Dakota Parks and Recreation Director Mark Zimmerman, State Historical Society of North Dakota Director Claudia Berg, and North Dakota Forest Service Director Larry Kotchman.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's 50th Anniversary Honor Guard is making its debut at the event and there is a special recognition of the Department's past directors. From 1:30 to 2 p.m. a State Arbor Day tree planting ceremony is planned with Kotchman and former NDPRD Director Douglass Prchal taking the lead. From 2 to 4 p.m. there is an ice cream social and the Department's 50th Anniversary Exhibit Trailer will be open for tours.

All present and past employees of the North Dakota Park Service, State Outdoor Recreation Agency and North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department have been extended special invitations to participate in the event. In case of inclement weather the event will move indoors to the Northern Lights Atrium, Heritage Center.

Throughout the rest of the summer North Dakota's state parks are holding events to recognize the anniversary starting Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day), at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and culminating Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area.

More information about North Dakota Parks and Recreation's 50th Anniversary can be found on its website at www.parkrec.nd.gov. For more information about the Kick-Off event or anniversary celebrations contact Gordon Weixel at 701-328-5357.